

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 3206 - SB 3376**

February 23, 2012

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes one parent to file a petition to terminate parental or guardianship rights of a person alleged to be another parent or guardian of the child. Adds a provision to the petition that allows for the parental rights of just one parent to be terminated, leaving full sole custody and control to the other parent whose rights were not terminated. Adds the following provisions to sufficient grounds for the initiation of termination of parental rights: severe child abuse of an unborn child, child's sibling, half-sibling, or any other child residing in a home for which a parent has been sentenced to more than two years of imprisonment; and failure to manifest an ability and willingness to assume legal and physical custody of the child and placing custody of the child in the person's legal and physical custody would pose a risk of substantial harm to the physical or psychological welfare of the child.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Under current law, termination of parental rights is authorized by a parent and a step-parent for adoption or by the Department of Children's Services for cause to make the child available for adoption.
- The proposed legislation would authorize one parent to seek termination of parental rights of another parent or guardian. Termination of parental rights of a working parent would potentially make the remaining parent eligible for public benefits and would prevent the state from collecting any child support from the terminated parent. Any increase in state or federal expenditures cannot be reasonably estimated due to many unknown factors.
- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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